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## **News Release**

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## Texas Veterans Commission Continues to Help Alleviate the VA Backlog with Tyler Event

**TYLER** - The Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) will host a "Beating the VA Backlog" event in Tyler on October 5 in order to provide specific, one-on-one guidance to Texas Veterans, family members and survivors with pending or new disability claims from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This event will take place at the Holiday Inn South Broadway, 5701 South Broadway from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

This event is part of an outreach effort at TVC to help Texas Veterans with their backlogged disability claims through the TVC State Strike Force and Fully Developed Claims Teams. TVC has already served over 1,900 Veterans at these events across the state, including Houston, Harlingen, El Paso, Arlington, Austin, Amarillo, Irving, Corpus Christi, and San Antonio.

"In the last year, the teams have already helped more than 25,000 Veterans with their pending claims," said Thomas Palladino, TVC Executive Director. "This 'Beating the VA Backlog' event is an opportunity for Veterans in Tyler to talk to a claims counselor one-on-one about their specific case and get information first hand."

The State Strike Force Teams and the Fully Developed Claims Teams were created by Governor Rick Perry, Lt. Governor David Dewhurst, and House Speaker Joe Straus in July 2012, when the two VA Regional Offices had the third and fourth highest numbers of pending claims in the country. The project was continued by the 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislature to help alleviate the ongoing backlog of disability claims in Texas.

The upcoming "Beating the VA Backlog" event is open to all Veterans, their families and survivors, and all services are free of charge. Preregistering will give staff an opportunity to research your claim prior to the event and provide you with the ability to select an appointment time. Walk-ins are allowed on a first-come, first-served basis as time allows. For details regarding this event, contact information and registration, please visit: <a href="http://www.tvc.state.tx.us/Beating-the-VA-Backlog.aspx">http://www.tvc.state.tx.us/Beating-the-VA-Backlog.aspx</a>.

## **Texas Veterans Commission**

The mission of the Texas Veterans Commission is to advocate for and provide superior service to Veterans and their families in the areas of disability claims assistance, employment services, education benefits and grant funding. Over 200 skilled counselors in 75 cities provide one-on-one guidance to Veterans and their families to ensure they receive all of the benefits to which they are entitled. For more information about the Texas Veterans Commission services click here: <a href="http://www.tvc.texas.gov/Home.aspx">http://www.tvc.texas.gov/Home.aspx</a>.